



For Immediate Release

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US Leaders Visit Program for Homeless Veterans Next Sunday

Kalaeloa, HI - High-ranking veterans from across the country will visit a veterans housing and service program in Kalaeloa next Sunday as part of their nationwide effort to house and employ homeless veterans.

About 275,000 men and women who served in the military are homeless in America.

Charles S. Ciccolella, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Veterans' Employment and Training Services (VETS) at the U.S. Department of Labor and Joseph C. Sharpe Jr., Deputy Director of the American Legion's National Economic Commission, will lead a delegation visiting the program which is operated by the U.S. VETS. Ciccolella and Sharpe's visit will be from 2-5 p.m., Sunday, August 21st (itinerary attached). The two are also attending the American Legion's National Convention in Waikiki this week.

The housing and service program, located at Building 37 Shangrila Avenue, is the only center in Hawaii that offers housing, employment assistance, substance abuse counseling, and clinical case management for male and female homeless veterans. The three-year-old Kalaeloa program is one of the U.S. VETS' newer locations. U.S. VETS is the largest organization in the country dedicated to helping homeless veterans, and is a

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nationally recognized leader in the field of service delivery to veterans. U.S. VETS has 10 locations nationwide. The Department of Veteran Affairs is the clinical liaison to the U.S. VETS.

“Assistant Secretary Ciccolella through the Department of Labor is a key figure who has helped to make our program a success,” said U.S. VETS-Hawaii Site Director Darryl Vincent, who served in the marines. “We are especially grateful to Director Sharpe who through the American Legion has tirelessly supported veterans programs nationwide. With their support, 85% of our clients are transitioned into housing and 78% find employment. Eighty-eight percent of our clients remain clean and sober during the program and at time of discharge.”

Many of the resident assistants at the three building housing facility are former veterans who once received help from U.S. VETS and most of the employees are veterans. Vincent says that this is a key to the program’s success.

“Assistant Secretary Ciccolella and Director Sharpes’ visit is very important to the moral of the veterans who are excited to show their progress since they entered our program,” said Vincent.

Ciccolella served 28 years in the U.S. Army from 1968 to 1996 which included a tour in Vietnam. He was an Army Infantry Colonel. Ciccolella has been awarded the Silver Star, the Defense Superior Service Medal and the Bronze Star for Valor, and he is the recipient of the Department of State’s Superior Honor Award. Prior to coming to the Department of Labor, Ciccolella served in the U.S. Senate as the Chief of Operations for

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the Senate Sergeant At Arms and as the Director of Information Technology Policy for the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration. He also served as the Deputy Capitol Coordinator for the Joint Congressional Inaugural Committee. As the Assistant Secretary for VETS he is responsible for helping veterans secure employment and protecting their rights and benefits.

Sharpe entered the U.S. Army in 1982. During his military service Sergeant First Class Sharpe was deployed twice overseas, in Operation Joint Forge, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and recently for the Global War on Terrorism, in which he received a Bronze Star Medal for work completed in the restoration and improvement of public and private financial institutions and banking services in Iraq. While in the Army he also served as a Drug and Alcohol Counselor, a Mental Health Counselor, a Behavior Science Research Specialist and as a Non Commissioned Officer in Charge of Inpatient Social Work and Psychiatry Service. He currently serves as a Non Commissioned Officer in Charge of the Brigades Economics and Commerce Team in the 354th Civil Affairs Brigade, U.S. Army Reserve at Riverdale, MD.

For more information on the site visit, please call Kymberly Pine at (808) 682-9000 or (808) 352-5050. For more information on U.S. VETS please visit www.usvetsinc.org/.

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